

STATOTHR

[REDACTED]
30 September 1965
(Mailed 1 October 1965)

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Dear Fred:

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I want to thank you for the kindness and helpfulness which your people have shown in regard to our investigations of a new intelligence collection concept. I especially want to mention [REDACTED] who can tell you the concept I mean.

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The history of this concept is rather interesting, I think. I suspect that your work with [REDACTED] and your knowledge of our efforts along similar lines has stimulated your people as it did me to ideas about improved methods for accomplishing the objectives. I was particularly struck with the real advantages of mobility and yet still wanted a better quality product. This desire led to the little technical feasibility study I am running with the help of a couple of systems analysts from [REDACTED]. We wanted to determine whether or not the idea was feasible and to get a rough ballpark on the cost and potential output quality, hopefully, in anticipation of a program definition phase. So far we have found nothing to dampen my own feeling that there is real potential -- and at a very reasonable cost. By the end of October we will have our study done and will solicit approval for launching a program definition phase.

As we approach the end of our study, I can see that a real advantage might be gained in at least increased confidence if it were possible for your people, who are real experts in the many techniques needed, to look over our work and give us the benefits of their judgments. My intent in making this request of you is just to help prevent us from making large scale goofs which would jeopardize the potential go-ahead for the program. I do not envisage anything beyond a cursory look since precision must really await completion of program definition. I just don't want to be too far wrong. Specifically, I propose showing you our work, hoping that by your questions and discussion our confidence will be

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increased, and maybe even our work improved. I am especially aware that there might be a contrast between our cost estimates and the intuitive feelings of your people who through on-the-line experience just have to be good.

I have talked with [REDACTED] about this matter and have furnished preliminary information on our work. If you concur with my request, we could come out in mid or late October, at your convenience.

Best personal regards.

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Sincerely,

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[REDACTED]

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note:

Sent [REDACTED] a "burn" copy
on 1 Oct 65 — "For your info"
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